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Illinois State Historical Library

TRUSTEES REPORT

1908 - 1910

THE UNIVERSITY
OF ILLINOIS
LIBRARY

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BIENNIAL REPORT

OF THE

Board of Trustees

OF THE

ILLINOIS

State Historical Library

September 30, 1908—September 30, 1910



SPRINGFIELD, ILL.
ILLINOIS STATE JOURNAL CO., STATE PRINTERS
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TRUSTEES' REPORT.

SPRINGFIELD, ILL., Dec. 20, 1910.

Honorable Charles S. Deneen, Governor of Illinois, Springfield, Illinois.

DEAR SIR—We have the honor to submit to you the biennial report of the Board of Trustees of the Illinois State Historical Library for the period ending Sept. 30, 1910.

During this period a complete change has taken place in the personnel of the board. The death of the Hon. George N. Black of Springfield which occurred in April, 1908, deprived the board of one of its most loyal and experienced members. Mr. Black was trustee of the library for eleven years, and during a large part of that time served as secretary of the board. This vacancy was filled in October, 1909, by the appointment of Dr. Otto L. Schmidt of Chicago. During the spring and summer of 1910, the resignations of President Edmund J. James and Dr. McKendree H. Chamberlin left vacancies which were filled by the appointment of Professor Evarts B. Greene of the University of Illinois and President Charles H. Rammelkamp of Illinois College, Jacksonville. As a result of these changes in personnel, the board has been reorganized as follows: Evarts B. Greene, President; Charles H. Rammelkamp, Vice-President; Otto L. Schmidt, Secretary. All the new members of the board have been for many years actively associated with the work of the State Historical Library or the State Historical Society.

It is now twenty-one years since this board was organized and a brief survey of its history seems appropriate. The first organic act was that of May 25, 1889, establishing the Illinois State Historical Library. The preamble of this act reads as follows:

WHEREAS, It is important and desirable that all books, pamphlets, and other printed matter, manuscripts, monographs and other writings, illustrative and descriptive of the history of the State, be collected and preserved in some permanent form, before it is too late to rescue from oblivion the memory of its earlier history, and those who founded it, as well as those who have been connected with its rise and progress in later days.

The first and second sections of the Act provided for the establishment of the "Illinois State Historical Library" with quarters in the State House. Section 3 provided for three trustees to be appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate and section 4 defined their functions, authorizing them to "make all necessary rules, regulations and by-laws not inconsistent with law, to carry into effect

the purposes of this act, and to procure from time to time, as may be possible and practicable, at reasonable cost, all books, pamphlets, manuscripts, monographs, writings, and other materials of historical interest and useful to the historian, bearing upon the political, physical, religious or social history of the State of Illinois from the earliest known period to the present time." Under the broad provisions of this statute, the trustees are charged not only with the duty of collecting printed books, but also with the responsibility of preserving in permanent form the manuscript materials for State history, thus including logically the function of publication.

During the past twenty years the changes in personnel have been less frequent than in some other State boards with the result that it has been possible to develop gradually a complete and comprehensive policy. For this result, credit is due chiefly to two members of the board who have held successively the office of president. In the original organization of the State Historical Library the strongest personal influence was undoubtedly that of Hon. H. W. Beckwith of Danville who was the first president of the board, and, with the exception of one four year period, held that office continuously until the time of his death. Judge Beckwith was an indefatigable and intelligent collector of rare books dealing with the history of the West and he gave to the library during its earlier years the benefit of his unusual bibliographical information. On the death of Judge Beckwith, his place as president of the board was taken by Dr. Edmund J. James, then President of Northwestern University, and subsequently President of the University of Illinois. Dr. James had already served for several years as a member of the board and was strongly interested in the work of publication. To his efforts is very largely due the publication of the series known as the Illinois Historical Collections, the first volume of which was edited by Judge Beckwith in 1903.

THE LIBRARY.

The first function developed by the Board of Trustees in the application of the statute was the building up of a collection of printed books in the State Historical Library. The earlier appropriations were too limited to admit of rapid growth, but many rare and valuable books were secured during this period, for many of which the library is especially indebted to Judge Beckwith's skill as a book collector. In recent years the appropriations have been more liberal. On July 1, 1908, the number of books and pamphlets in the library was 24,543. On July 1, 1910, the number was 28,680, an increase of 4,227. Especially notable during this period was the purchase of about three hundred rare volumes on early western history from the London firm of Henry Stevens' Son and Stiles.

So far as practicable with the small appropriation available and the limited space, the library is endeavoring to build up a strong collection of Illinois newspapers. An account of the newspaper collection will be found in the attached report of the librarian. One of the files which may be noted as of especial interest is that of the Illinois State Register

extending from the year of its foundation to the present time, lacking only the year 1859. A similar set of the Illinois State Journal has been deposited with the library for safe keeping. There are also more or less incomplete files of a number of early Illinois newspapers, including a file of the Vandalia Intelligencer, 1822-25, which was the gift of Governor Edward Coles.

It is one of the functions of a modern research library to accumulate the manuscript materials of history. The report of the librarian shows that some progress has been made in this direction. The most notable collections are probably the Lincoln manuscripts and a recently acquired collection relating to the Black Hawk War. By an act of the Legislature approved June 9, 1897, provision was made for the transfer from county, town, city, or village archives to the State Historical Library, the library of the State University, or to local historical societies, of all such records as might be deemed of historical interest. In accordance with the terms of this act, the trustees subsequently issued a circular letter inviting the various local authorities to deposit such material in the State Historical Library. The amount of material accumulated in this way has, however, been comparatively small.

In the effort to develop its printed and manuscript collections, the State Historical Library is now seriously embarrassed by the fact that it has completely outgrown its present quarters. It appears also that there is no other space available in the Capitol building except to a limited extent for storage purposes. During recent years a number of proposals have been under consideration for the proper housing of our collections, but no satisfactory agreement has been reached. In our opinion it is reasonable for the State of Illinois to establish at the State Capital a Library building which shall perform in a general way those services which in the National Capital are performed by the Library of Congress. Such a building should provide for the State Library, the State Historical Library, and perhaps a Hall of Records. We understand that a similar plan has been favorably considered by the Secretary of State. It would have the great advantage, not merely of providing adequate room for these collections of books and manuscripts, but also of relieving the State House from the very serious congestion which now exists.

PUBLICATION.

It is recognized by scientific historians that only a small part of the material for history is contained in printed books. Such material must be supplemented by a thorough use of manuscript records both public and private. Some of this material is carelessly kept under conditions which expose it to the chance of entire destruction. Even when such records are faithfully guarded in fire-proof buildings they remain largely inaccessible to the student. The trustees of the State Historical Library have therefore regarded it as one of their legitimate and most important functions to secure the preservation of these manuscript records by putting them in print.

In 1899 there began a series of small volumes designated as "Publications of the Illinois State Historical Library." They were prepared largely under the supervision of Dr. James, then a professor at the University of Chicago, and included a "Bibliography of Illinois Newspapers" and two volumes dealing with the territorial records of Illinois. In 1903, a more ambitious series was undertaken under the title of the "Collections of the Illinois State Historical Library," the first volume of which was edited by Judge Beckwith.

In the year 1905, the work of publication was given a new impetus by the liberal action of the General Assembly. Prior to that date, beginning with 1899, small appropriations had been made to the library specifically for publication. In 1905, this amount was increased from \$1,000 to \$2,000 and in addition an appropriation of \$5,000 was made for "procuring documents, papers and materials and publications relating to the Northwest and the State of Illinois." This appropriation made possible for the first time that examination of archives within and without the State without which a comprehensive policy of publication could not be carried out. For the purpose of securing the services of historical students in shaping this larger plan of publication, the board appointed an Advisory Commission regarding which further particulars will be found below. Acting on the advice of this commission, the board adopted a plan of publication in series, each series to consist usually of material belonging to a particular period in the political history of the State, as for instance, the Virginia series dealing with the period when the sovereignty in the Illinois County was claimed by the state of Virginia. In some cases, however, a topical arrangement is also provided, as in the Lincoln series.

Since that date, the following volumes of the collections have been printed:

Collections of the Illinois State Historical Library, Volume II, Virginia Series, Volume I, Cahokia Records, 1778-1790. Edited with introduction and notes by Clarence Walworth Alvord, of the University of Illinois, Springfield, 1907. pp. clvi, 663.

Collections of the Illinois State Historical Library, Volume III, Lincoln Series, Volume I, the Lincoln-Douglas Debates of 1858, edited with introduction and notes by Edwin Earle Sparks. Springfield, 1908. pp. 627.

Collections of the Illinois State Historical Library, Volume IV, Executive Series, Volume I, The Governors' Letter-Books, 1818-1834. Edited with introduction and notes by Evarts Boutell Greene and Clarence Walworth Alvord.

Collections of the Illinois State Historical Library, Volume V, Virginia Series, Volume I, Kaskaskia Records. Edited with introduction and notes by Clarence Walworth Alvord, University of Illinois, Springfield, 1909. pp. L, 681.

The two volumes now in press include Volume VI, a Bibliography of Illinois Newspapers and Volume VII, a continuation of the "Governors' Letter-Books" to 1853. Other volumes in active preparation and nearly ready for publication are the first volume in a series of "Clark Papers" which, it is believed, will make possible for the first time a complete and accurate view of the services of George Rogers Clark in the Illinois country; and two volumes of Morgan Papers illustrating the career

of George Morgan, one of the most famous Indian traders of the West during the era of the American Revolution. Both of these are likely to prove interesting to the general reader as well as to the professional student of history. A number of other volumes have been projected and can be prepared for publication when the appropriations for the next biennial period are made.

The volumes so far published have attracted favorable notice from the general public and from scientific historians as well. The American Historical Review in its issue of January, 1908, says of the volume of Cahokia Records edited by Professor Alvord, that it not only "represents a task well performed," but also "sets a lofty standard for such needed exploitation of similar riches in the archives of states, counties, and towns." The attitude of Catholic and Canadian scholars is illustrated by a review of the same volume in the Canadian publication, *La Nouvelle France*. This review was written by the Abbé Lindsey, secretary to the Archbishop of Quebec, and speaks especially of the impartiality with which the customs of the French inhabitants and their religious spirit have been described. Volume III of the collections, containing the Lincoln-Douglas Debates and supplementary material, attracted attention all over the country. The New York Nation, one of the most exacting and critical of all our American reviews, referred to it as the "definitive" edition of the great Lincoln-Douglas Debates of 1858. Professor William Macdonald of Brown University, for many years a member of the Council of the American Historical Association, says of the same volume: "I shall value particularly the newspaper extracts and other contemporary material most of which is new to me. I am increasingly struck with the value of the work which the historical societies of the West are doing. They are dropping antiquarianism and getting down to the real basis of history in the daily life of the people."

The work of the library has also received favorable notice from the press of the State. Referring to the volume of *Governors' Letter Books* already published, the Chicago Record Herald says: "The Illinois State Historical Library, although a modest institution, not loudly exploited nor given to publications apt to attract wide and ephemeral attention from the rank and file of the reading public, is in a quiet, scholarly and intelligent way performing an important work in the preservation of original sources of information concerning the past, and the occasional publication of books based on such sources carefully studied and presented in form least wearisome to the average student." An editorial in the Chicago Tribune of March 13, 1910, says of Volume V, Kaskaskia Records, that the State Historical Library "is doing a magnificent thing in selecting, collating, arranging and editing all extant documents relating to Virginia and Illinois" making "accessible to the general public papers which the student might else have to search for the world over."

From recent reviews of the Kaskaskia volume, two are selected as typical. Abbé Lindsey in *La Nouvelle France* says of Professor Alvord's editorial work: "One can not sufficiently praise in words

his sense of justice and impartiality to those who are strangers to him in belief, as well as the reserve with which he approaches the action of the ecclesiastical authorities." From a somewhat different point of view, the reviewer in the *New York Nation*, besides noting the scholarly character of the editorial work, speaks also of the "human interest" of the material, covering as it does the period of the Revolution "when the villages of the Illinois County, neglected for twenty years by France and then by England, were drawn into war and politics."

It is believed, therefore, that the character of these publications has been such as to give Illinois an enviable position in this respect even among the older states of the Union. Mr. Worthington C. Ford of the Massachusetts Historical Society, for several years Chief of the Division of Manuscripts in the Library of Congress and one of the most competent experts in the United States on the collecting and editing of manuscript material, says of Illinois: "You are setting an example to older communities on their duty." Nor has the interest been confined to American readers. Benjamin Sulte, a former president of the Royal Society of Canada, says of the work done on the Cahokia and Kaskaskia volumes: "The French-Canadians especially owe you thanks for you are teaching them a part of their history." From the Public Record Office in London, Hubert Hall, one of the most eminent of living archivists, writes of the Kaskaskia volume as one of "extraordinary interest." With the coöperation of the General Assembly, we hope to bring this work of publication to a still higher plane of accuracy and public interest.

THE ADVISORY COMMISSION.

In carrying forward the work of publication, the trustees have had the coöperation of some of the leading educational institutions of the State. This has been done chiefly through the agency of the Advisory Commission. This commission was organized by the board in the autumn of 1905 and included at that time Professors E. E. Sparks of the University of Chicago, J. A. James of Northwestern University, Charles H. Rammelkamp of Illinois College, E. C. Page of the DeKalb Normal School, Henry Johnson of the Eastern Illinois Normal School, and Evarts B. Greene of the University of Illinois (Chairman).

Shortly after the appointment of the commission, Professor Clarence W. Alvord of the University of Illinois, an expert on western history who had already rendered important services to the library by the examination of manuscript material in Randolph and St. Clair counties, was appointed special editor with the understanding that he was to assume a general editorial responsibility for the collections. The preparation of each volume has also, however, been assigned to an individual editor. Professor Alvord has subsequently been appointed an adjunct member of the commission. It may be noted in this connection that the regular members of the Advisory Commission give their services without compen-

sation, receiving only allowances for their necessary expenses. This principle was adopted by the board on the recommendation of the Advisory Commission itself.

Since the original organization of the board, two changes in the personnel have taken place. On the withdrawal of Professor E. E. Sparks to accept the presidency of the Pennsylvania State College, his place was taken by Professor A. C. McLaughlin, head professor of history in the University of Chicago. On the resignation of Professor Henry Johnson of the Eastern Illinois Normal School, this vacancy has been filled by the appointment of the Hon. William A. Meese of Moline, a well known writer and speaker on various topics in Illinois history.

ARCHIVE EXAMINATION.

In the opinion of the board, one of its most important duties is the examination of public archives and other depositories of manuscript material, with a view to furnish the student with accurate information as to the places in which such materials may be found. Through the efforts of Professor Alvord acting in behalf of the Board of Trustees, there have been brought to light recently three important collections of manuscripts relating to the early history of Illinois. The first is known as the Cahokia manuscripts, belonging to the county of St. Clair, and deposited in the court house in Belleville. The more important of these have already been published as will be noted below. There are, secondly, the Kaskaskia manuscripts, belonging to the county of Randolph and deposited in the circuit clerk's office of the court house, but at present in the library of the University of Illinois, where they are being repaired and arranged. The third is the Menard collection, which has been given by the grandson of Pierre Menard, Pierre Menard of Fort Gage, to the Illinois State Historical Library. All three of these collection are most valuable, and have thrown great light not only upon the history of Illinois during the 18th century, but also upon that of the whole Northwest.

For several years the last two collections have been at the University of Illinois where they are being mended and arranged. The process is a very slow and expensive one. It is important that the collection of Kaskaskia manuscripts be mended and mounted before they are returned to Chester, for their present state is such that without such protection they would be in danger of suffering from accident in handling. The Menard manuscripts are also being mended and they will be ready to be deposited in the Illinois State Historical Library at Springfield, it is hoped, during the present year.

During the month of November, 1910, Mr. Solon J. Buck, of the University of Illinois, undertook for the library a two weeks tour of inspection in central and southern Illinois, with the object of locating material for Illinois history in county archives or in the hands of private individuals. The county seats of the following counties were visited: Champaign, Macon, Sangamon, Macoupin, Madison, St. Clair, Monroe, Randolph, Washington, Jefferson, Edwards, Wabash, Crawford and Effingham. The archives of several of these counties, notably Sanga-

mon, Macoupin, Madison, St. Clair, Monroe, Randolph and Edwards, were found to be rich in historical material reaching back, in some cases, to a very early period. In other counties, however, it was found that most of this material had been destroyed, sometimes by accident and sometimes to make room for current records. As a rule, however, the record books of the circuit and county courts are complete from the beginning of the county organization. Yet even these records are sometimes scattered about and neglected, so as to render them almost inaccessible and liable to destruction at any time. In Wabash county, all the records were destroyed by fire in 1857. The chief object in view at this time was the location of duplicate schedules of the early State censuses, in order to supplement the incomplete set in the office of the Secretary of State at Springfield. The law required these duplicates to be filed with the clerks of the circuit courts in each county, but in most cases they do not appear to have been preserved. One was found in Edwards county for the census of 1825, and it is possible that others may be in existence, buried in some of the masses of miscellaneous and unarranged papers which it was not possible to examine thoroughly in the limited time available.

In connection with the inspection of the county court houses, some effort was made to locate and examine material relating to Illinois history in the hands of private individuals. The most extensive and valuable collection examined in this way was that of the Hon. Norman G. Flagg in his homestead on Liberty Prairie, near Moro. The papers here found include a collection of "pioneer letters" written by Gershom Flagg, who settled in Illinois in 1818; correspondence of the Hon. Willard C. Flagg, including letters from Trumbull, Logan, Oglesby, Josiah, Quincy, and other prominent men, often on important questions of National politics.

It is very desirable that this work of archive examination should be extended, and it is hoped that it may often result in the acquisition by the library of important collections. The expenses of this survey are very small as compared with the returns which may reasonably be expected.

CO-OPERATION WITH THE ILLINOIS STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

Beginning with 1827, various attempts were made to organize a State Historical Society. All these attempts were shortlived, however, until the year 1899 when the present State Historical Society was organized. In response to a call signed by Messrs. Beckwith, James and Black, then trustees of the library, and other citizens interested in historical work, a preliminary meeting was held at the University of Illinois. In 1900 the Illinois State Historical Society was chartered as a corporation under the laws of the State. By an act of the Legislature, approved May 16, 1903, a new section was added to the original act by which the State Historical Library was organized in 1889. By the provisions of this section (Section 6) the State Historical Society is declared to be a department of the Illinois State Historical Library and the Board

of Trustees is authorized to pay certain expenses of the society out of funds appropriated by the Legislature to the library for this purpose. In accordance with the provisions of this statute the General Assembly has from time to time made special appropriations for expenses for the State Historical Society. The appropriation for the current biennial period is two thousand dollars per annum.

In our opinion it is of the highest importance that this coöperation between the library and the society should be maintained. As an official board appointed by the chief executive of the State and responsible to him for the proper performance of its official duties, the Board of Trustees of the State Historical Library is the natural custodian of such property as may be accumulated by the State in the promotion of historical work. On the other hand, a society whose membership is open to the general public on the payment of a nominal fee, forms an admirable means of keeping the people of the State informed with regard to historical matters and arousing their interest in promoting historical work. The annual meetings of the society which were comparatively small at the beginning have grown in attendance and general interest until they now constitute an important means of bringing together the scattered workers in this field from various parts of the State.

There has always been a close personal relation between the management of the library and that of the society. When the society was first organized, the three trustees of the library were made directors of the society and the president of the board was also made president of the society. All of the members of the board and of the Advisory Commission are also members of the society and several of them are also directors. In other words, the State Historical Library and the State Historical Society represent the coöperation of an official agency with individual initiative in the promotion of State history. The present president of the society is Hon. Clark E. Carr of Galesburg.

In this connection the board desires to place on record its especial appreciation of the services rendered by Dr. J. F. Snyder of Virginia. Dr. Snyder was a zealous advocate of the organization of a State Historical Society long before this result was accomplished, and he has since contributed very largely to its success. He was for a time the president of the society and has been a constant and valued contributor.

The publications now issued by the society under the special appropriation mentioned above are the Annual Transactions and the Journal. The Transactions contain the papers read at the annual meetings, the annual record of the society's proceedings, and a few additional contributions to State history. The publication of the Journal was begun in 1908, and it is now issued quarterly under the management of a special committee. Of this committee, Mrs. Jessie Palmer Weber, Librarian of the State Historical Library, is chairman. It should be noted in this connection that Mrs. Weber besides her important services as Librarian, is also secretary of the State Historical Society and has been extremely helpful in maintaining a vital relation between the two organizations.

In general the functions of the board and the society may be differentiated as follows: It is the primary business of the trustees of the State Historical Library to maintain the library in Springfield, to act for the State in finding, caring for, and publishing historical archives and other manuscripts. On the other hand, it is the function of the society to promote acquaintance and exchange of information among students of State history, to furnish through its *Transactions and Journal* a means of publishing individual research, and to coöperate with county and other local historical societies in stimulating interest in local history.

This survey of the work of the State Historical Library serves to illustrate the value of cordial coöperation among all the agencies which are working for the common cause, and it also indicates the importance of a continuous policy. The personnel of the board is likely to change from time to time, but it is hoped that through the coöperation of the Advisory Commission representing the scientific and educational institutions of the State, a method of procedure may be maintained which will secure for the library a high standard of scholarship and the respect of those in other states who are engaged in similar work. It is believed that Illinois has now attained a position in this respect in which her citizens may take legitimate satisfaction. Other states, however, are also pushing forward and it is of the highest importance that Illinois should not be satisfied with present results, but go forward steadily in the building up of the library and in the improvement of its publications. To accomplish this result, we strongly urge a moderate increase in the biennial appropriation devoted to these purposes.

We have appended to this report the report of the Librarian and a statement of expenditures for the period ending Sept. 30, 1910.

Respectfully submitted,

EVARTS B. GREENE,

CHARLES H. RAMMELKAMP,

OTTO L. SCHMIDT,

Trustees of the Illinois State Historical Library.

REPORT OF THE LIBRARIAN.

To the Board of Trustees of the Illinois State Historical Library:

GENTLEMEN—I beg to submit to you my report of the working and progress of the library for the biennial period from July 1, 1908, to July 1, 1910.

On July 1, 1908, the number of books and pamphlets in the library numbered 24,453. On July 1, 1910, the number was 28,680, an increase during the biennial period of 4,227 books and pamphlets.

MANUSCRIPT COLLECTIONS.

The library is not as rich in manuscripts as it ought to be, but the fact that it is only twenty years old accounts in a large measure for this deficiency. Wisconsin had been collecting and filing precious manuscripts relating to western history for forty years when this library was founded. While it is true that our manuscript collection is our weakest point and one that demands earnest effort to strengthen we yet have much valuable and interesting manuscript material.

The most important collection of manuscripts which the library owns is its collection of Lincoln papers and letters. Some years ago by permission of the board of supervisors of Sangamon county the librarian of the library was permitted to go through the records of the county clerk of Sangamon county for the period 1831-1837 and take from them all papers relating to Mr. Lincoln. This is a most important collection and numbers about one hundred pieces, including the record of Mr. Lincoln's first vote, (Aug. 1, 1831), several tally sheets of elections in Mr. Lincoln's hand writing, he having served as clerk of election; some petitions and reports of road reviews also in his writing; the marriage license and clergyman's return to the county clerk of the marriage of Abraham Lincoln and Mary Todd on Nov. 4, 1842. In the 5th biennial report of the Library Board (for 1898) a full list of these papers was printed.

Since that time some interesting Lincoln items have been added, the principal of which is the original letter of Mr. Lincoln to the Union Mass Meeting held at Springfield, Illinois, Sept. 3, 1863, a brief letter entirely in Mr. Lincoln's hand writing addressed to Mr. J. C. Conkling transmitting the letter to be read at the mass meeting, and two telegrams in regard to the same letter. These valuable and unique Lincoln items

were the gift of Mr. Clinton L. Conkling, the son of Mr. James C. Conkling to whom the letter and telegrams were sent. The library has other manuscripts and a large amount of other Lincoln material, the latter of which will be mentioned in another place.

Next in importance and interest to the Lincoln collection is the Black Hawk war collection of original material. These are for the most part original papers from the papers of Gov. John Reynolds. The principal items of interest being the preliminary notes intended to be used in writing a history of the Black Hawk war by Prof. John Russell: the orderly book of Gov. John Reynolds, April-May, 1832; Militia documents of Governor Reynolds, 1832; order and letter book of Brig.-Gen. Henry Atkinson, 1832; Gen. Atkinson's report of his conduct of the Black Hawk war, written Nov., 1832; order book of Lieut. Albert Sidney Johnston, 1832, and a number of letters from officers and other persons who took part in that war. The library has also the original order book and muster rolls of the Illinois troops in the Black Hawk war. These were presented to the library by the widow of Gen. Robert Anderson. General Anderson was a young officer in the service of the United States during that frontier war and afterwards achieved fame as the hero of Fort Sumter.

The library owns a collection of autograph letters of some of the governors of the State, and many letters from persons of distinction in the history of Illinois. Quite a large number of letters from the papers of Judge Sidney Breese were purchased from the late Dr. A. W. French. These letters are mostly written to Judge Breese. A number of letters from the papers of Gen. John M. Palmer have been presented to the library by the family of General Palmer. These letters relate principally to the Greeley campaign of 1872. There is considerable material among the papers of General Palmer yet to be examined and it is hoped that the library may receive further gifts of original letters. The library has also a similar collection of letters from the papers of Hon. Jehu Baker, a distinguished congressman of southern Illinois.

Among other items of interest may be mentioned the following: Original ledgers and day books of the pioneer merchants of Illinois, at Kaskaskia, Bryant and Morrison. These contain entries of business transactions for the years 1805 to 1825; they number 8 volumes.

The minutes of the village of Springfield from the first meeting, April, 1832, to its incorporation as a city, 1839.

Original record books of the Presbytery of Springfield, 1829-1909, 11 vols.; also, minutes of the Mackinaw, Ill. Presbytery, 1854-1873, bound in 2 volumes, and the Minutes of the Sangamon Presbytery, Cumberland Presbyterian Church, from its organization, 1829 to 1873, bound in 4 volumes—all the property of the Presbytery, deposited in the library for reference and safe-keeping.

Record book of St. Paul's Parish, St. Paul's Church, Springfield, Ill., May 13, 1838 to July, 1863, the property of the church, deposited in the library for reference and safe-keeping.

Original diary of an Illinois soldier, Charles W. Wills. This diary has been published by the sister of the soldier, Mrs. Wm. Pitt Kellogg of Washington, D. C., who has since the publication of the diary presented the original manuscript to the library.

A collection of freight way-bills, etc., of the Illinois Central Railroad, 1864-1865, Sandoval to Cairo. Presented to the library by the railroad company through Mr. J. H. Lord. These relate largely to transportation of rations, etc., during the Civil war.

Some letters and papers from the papers of Archibald Job, a pioneer of Cass county, Ill. Presented by Dr. J. F. Snyder.

The library owns quite a good collection of copies of important historical documents which were purchased from Mr. Clarence E. Carter who made the transcripts from the archives in London, New York, Albany, Boston and other places.

To these must be added the interesting and important collection of the Menard papers and the Tardiveau papers, which are being collated and have not yet been deposited in the library. These are some of the most interesting items of the manuscript collection of the library, but it is by no means all, as there is a mass of miscellaneous manuscript material all germane to the history of Illinois.

MAPS.

Some years ago the library, through the late Judge H. W. Beckwith, then president of the Board of Trustees of the library procured from various sources a collection of twenty maps, most of them old French maps of North America and especially of the Illinois country. Many of these maps are originals, and there are facsimile copies of others. Including the above mentioned set of maps, the library has about eighty-five maps exclusive of the maps of Illinois and the counties of Illinois which are published as atlas-maps of the counties, and the maps included in county and other histories.

PORTRAITS AND OTHER ILLUSTRATIVE MATERIAL IN THE NATURE OF PICTURES, FACSIMILES, ETC.

The library owns a very fine set of photographs of the governors of Illinois, including its territorial governors. The portraits of the governors of the State, 1818, to the present, except of the last two governors, Richard Yates, the younger, and Charles S. Dencen, are copies of the official oil paintings of the governors which hang in the offices of the Governor of the State. The library has but two oil portraits, one of Shadrach Bond, the first governor of the State of Illinois, and one of Sidney Breese, one of the justices of the Supreme Court of Illinois and one of its United States senators.

The Historical Society Library at Madison, Wisconsin, has a fine portrait gallery which contains many hundreds of portraits and pictures of historical persons and places in the State, as well as a most interesting historical museum.

The Illinois State Historical Library has portraits of other distinguished Illinoisans besides its governors, including many pictures of Gen. U. S. Grant, and Stephen A. Douglas, and has some fine photographs of the beautiful "Starved Rock" country, and has some fine and unusually large photographs of the four capitol buildings of the State. The first or territorial capitol at Kaskaskia was not owned by the State, but was merely rented for the purposes of the government, but as it was also known as the first brick house west of the Alleghany mountains, its use is appropriate in the group. It has by the inroads of the mighty Mississippi been entirely washed away. The other buildings are still in use. The one at Vandalia is now the Fayette county court house. This is not the first building erected in Vandalia as a State house, the first having been destroyed by fire. This building was erected by the citizens of Vandalia and was at that time regarded as an especially fine building and was built in this fine style as a part of the effort to keep the capital at Vandalia. The State paid back to the town of Vandalia a great part of the money expended in building it. The third capitol, the first at Springfield, is now the Sangamon county court house. There is also a fine photograph of the present capitol building. The four pictures show the growth of the State as represented in its capitol buildings.

The principal collection of pictures is the collection of Lincoln material. The entire north side of the large library room is covered with pictorial and manuscript material relating to Illinois' greatest citizen. This is arranged to form a pictorial and manuscript life of Lincoln. There are nineteen framed wall cases hung in chronological order. They are labelled: "Ancestry of Lincoln; Youth of Lincoln; Lincoln at New Salem; Lincoln in the Black Hawk war; Lincoln as a Surveyor; Marriage and Domestic Life; Lincoln as a Lawyer. (two cases); Lincoln as a Member of Congress; Lincoln and the Foundation of the Republican Party in Illinois; Lincoln-Douglas Debates; Lincoln and the Campaign of 1860; Lincoln in Washington, the Cabinet; The War of the Rebellion; Assassination and Death of Mr. Lincoln; Early Portraits of Mr. Lincoln, Prior to 1861; Later Portraits of Mr. Lincoln, 1861-1865, (with a beard)—these pictures mostly in cabinet size are fifty-nine in number—two cases of facsimile copies of famous letters and documents in Mr. Lincoln's writing. In these cases are many interesting photographs and papers, all in facsimile. Even in cases where the library owns the original, a facsimile is used for the exhibit as it is not deemed wise to expose the original paper to the action of light. On the wall above these cases are eighty-seven framed pictures of Mr. Lincoln, his family, his contemporaries, or of places, or illustrations of events connected with his life and times. Of these, forty-four are portraits of Mr. Lincoln; eight pictures of Mr. Lincoln with his family; eleven other groups in which Mr. Lincoln appears; three pictures of statues and busts of Mr. Lincoln, and twenty-one miscellaneous pictures, such as inscriptions, addresses, etc. In addition to these the library owns thirty medals or badges relating to Mr. Lincoln and his campaigns; thirty-two pieces of sheet music written

in Mr. Lincoln's honor, and thirteen song books, mostly campaign songsters so popular a generation ago, all containing songs relating to Mr. Lincoln.

NEWSPAPERS AND PERIODICALS.

The library owns a file of the Illinois State Register from 1835, the year of its foundation, to the present time, lacking only the year 1859. This file is the official file of the paper. The newspaper management itself does not own a set. The file was purchased from the late Gen. John M. Palmer who was at one time the owner of the newspaper. The Illinois State Journal has deposited in the library its file, from 1831, the date of the founding of the paper, to the present time, lacking only the first half of the year 1860. The Journal Company owns the file, but has deposited it with the library for safe-keeping and convenient reference.

The library owns an incomplete file of the New York Tribune, 1850 to 1889, inclusive. The numbers lacking from this file are January to August, 1853; May to August, 1854; May to August, 1855; September to December, 1867; May to August, 1875, and January to April, 1877. These files cover most of the period of agitation leading up to the war between the states and all of the Civil war period. They comprise one hundred and seventeen bound volumes. The binding of this file is in a very bad condition and the Library Board has directed that it be rebound.

The library has quite a good collection of early Illinois newspapers, including the St. Louis (afterwards the Alton) Observer, 1836-1839, Elijah P. Lovejoy's paper; a file of the Vandalia Intelligencer, 1822-1825, the gift to the State of Illinois of Governor Edward Coles at the close of his term of office as Governor of the State; a copy of the Nauvoo Expositor, an anti-Mormon paper published at Nauvoo, Ill., Vol. 1, No. 1, 1844. There was but one number of this paper published, as a Mormon mob stormed the newspaper office and destroyed the press. The library is most fortunate in owning a copy of this rare paper. A copy of the Illinois Herald, Vol. 1, No. 30, Dec. 13, 1814, Matthew Duncan, printer to the Territory, publisher, the first newspaper published in Illinois, is one of the treasures of the library. The library owns quite a good collection of early Illinois newspapers, but as a full list of them is published in the History of Illinois Newspapers, edited by Mr. F. W. Scott and published by the library, it seems unnecessary to repeat it here.

The library subscribes to and binds three Chicago daily papers, the St. Louis Globe Democrat, the four Springfield daily papers, and it also receives fifty weekly and semi-weekly papers published in the State. Under an arrangement made between the Illinois State Historical Society and the Illinois Press Association, publishers of Illinois newspapers who regularly send their papers to the Illinois State Historical Library become members of the Historical Society without payment of further dues and receive the publications of the library and society. It is under this arrangement that the State papers are received by the library.

The library subscribes to the current magazines as all of them from time to time publish valuable historical material. It also subscribes to the leading historical and genealogical magazines and receives by exchange the periodical publications of most of the historical and patriotic societies of the United States.

It also receives reports of fraternal societies, and professional and other organizations, and reports of officers of cities and towns, and many corporation reports. Attempts are being made to secure all municipal reports, and others of like nature.

The library subscribes to the Chicago and Springfield papers already mentioned, and to thirteen historical periodicals besides those received by exchange, which number as many more, and twenty-five current periodicals, making a total of fifty-one periodicals, exclusive of newspapers. There is little difference in the number received, July 1, 1908 and July 1, 1910, the list being practically the same.

The Historical Library has prepared historical exhibits of pictorial matter relating to the State of Illinois, first for the Illinois State building at the Exposition at St. Louis, in 1904; then for the Exposition at Portland, Oregon, in 1905 and for the Jamestown Exposition in 1907. This consists of flat wall cases, containing much valuable material. These exhibits were prepared by the librarian of this library, who personally supervised their installment in the State buildings at the expositions mentioned. At the close of the expositions the material was deposited in this library and forms an interesting and instructive exhibit. Unfortunately the library has not space or facilities for exhibiting this material and forty-eight such cases are packed away. These contain pictures of early Illinois, Kaskaskia, Cahokia, etc., Illinois authors, noted women of Illinois, educational institutions with photographs and statistics of their founders; Illinois in the Indian and frontier wars; pictures of Illinois' thirteen major generals in the Civil war; State charitable and educational institutions; material relating to Illinois cities, there being some especially fine material relating to the foundation and growth of the city of Chicago.

This pictorial material has received a great deal of attention not only at the expositions mentioned, but has been used by persons who desire illustrations for historical books and lectures, and many classes from towns of the State have visited the library for the purpose of using these illustrations in teaching State and Western history. It may not be out of place to state that the library is accumulating a large number of cuts, plates and zinc etchings which have been used to illustrate the various historical publications issued by the library. These are being loaned from time to time to persons who are publishing historical books or monographs. The cuts and plates number one hundred and eighty-five cuts, and this estimate does not include the illustrations used in Illinois Historical Collections Vol. 3, the Lincoln-Douglas Debates, of 1858, (these are now being used for the reprint which will soon be ready for distribution); nor those used in Historical Collections No. 4, the first number

of the Governors' Letter Books; nor those used in the Collections, volume 5. The cuts for the illustrations in the two volumes last named have not been sent to the library by the publishers.

CHARACTER OF ACCESSIONS.

The library of course collects primarily works on Illinois and western history, but this subject has been interpreted to mean any phase of State history, and that history to begin with the archaeological and anthropological history of the State, its topography and geography, and its resources both natural and acquired. It contains of course the various books which are called histories of Illinois, histories of its counties and towns, the laws of the territory and State, all reports of departments of the State government including the journals of the General Assembly, and reports of constitutional conventions. Such works as these the library has been collecting zealously from its foundation. During the period embraced in this report the accessions along this line have been considerable. All books of that nature which have come to the knowledge of the library have been purchased, but the greatest accession during this period has been to the Lincoln collection. This was largely occasioned by the celebration of the one hundredth anniversary of the birth of Mr. Lincoln in honor of which many books were written, and speeches and addresses were made. These the library has endeavored to obtain and has thereby received a large accession to its collection. Our Lincoln collection now numbers about 1,100 titles. Another branch of the library work which has made great strides during this biennial period is its genealogical collection. A list of some of the principal accessions to this department was published in the *Journal of the Historical Society*, July-October, 1908, as the report of the chairman of the committee of the Historical Society, Miss Georgia L. Osborne, who is our assistant librarian. Miss Osborne is making a special study of this subject and is doing good work for the large numbers of students who every day visit the library for the purpose of the study of our genealogical records. Since the list mentioned was published the library has obtained a complete set of the *New England Historical and Genealogical Register*, sixty-four volumes, one of the most important collections to the student of American genealogy; *Massachusetts Soldiers and Sailors of the Revolutionary war*, seventeen volumes, an official publication of the state of Massachusetts, edited by Hon. Wm. C. Olin; *North Carolina Colonial Records*, twenty-six volumes, and a great many other interesting and valuable additions to our genealogical collection.

In September and October, 1909, the library purchased in London, England, through the firm of Henry Stevens' Son and Stiles, 307 volumes of rare and costly historical books. These books are a remarkable addition to be obtained by any special library. Many of the books are written in French and relate to the discovery of the Illinois country; others relate to the management of the colonies by Great Britain, and others to the Revolutionary war and the war of 1812-1814. This is the most expensive single purchase the library has made since its first purchase of books in the foundation of the library.

A large number of the histories of the Illinois counties and some atlas maps of counties have been purchased during this biennial period. Two firms in Chicago have been issuing new county histories, and as fast as they are published the library secures them. There are twenty-five of these new county histories. The library has some material on each of the 102 counties of the State.

USE OF THE LIBRARY.

The library is used by all classes of citizens, but it may be fairly said that certain classes of persons are its chief patrons. Among these may be mentioned first, pupils from the high schools and colleges. These students use the library in the preparation of essays and theses as well as by consulting with the librarian and asking her advice as to the selection of subjects for such purposes and in regard to reading courses along the line of American history. It is but seldom a day passes without students of this class visiting us, and often from the Springfield high school and neighboring towns classes spend half days in the library. Many students from the universities work for days at a time in the library and the holiday seasons and Saturdays are always busy times with the students from other places than Springfield. Prof. John L. Scott of the Springfield high school brought his entire class to the library and introduced them to the librarian and assistants, and while this class was studying a certain subject the library was used by members of the class daily, sometimes as many as twelve or fifteen at a time working with us.

The newspaper men and women are constant patrons of the library. Our files are consulted daily by them, and by other persons. The number of purposes for which the files are consulted is a matter of constant surprise to the librarian. They are searched for death notices, marriage notices, tax notices, notices of city improvements, and the librarian has several times taken files of the papers into court that they might be used in evidence. Letters are often received asking information of such notices. The woman's clubs and other study clubs use the library constantly, and the librarian and the assistant librarian have been helpful in making up programs for the yearly work of clubs of all kinds. The students of genealogy are constant workers in the library, and spend much time delving in our records. Writers of articles in relation to Mr. Lincoln have spent much time here, and many of the more noted writers on Lincolniana have expressed their appreciation of the service of the library in their work. Few persons have written exhaustive works on Lincoln within the past ten years without making one or more visits to us, and the librarian is in constant correspondence with most of them.

The library is also used freely by the other departments of the State, and every day letters addressed to other departments are referred to the librarian for action, and persons from other departments use the library for reference purposes, many of them being obliged to come here to consult files of their own reports.

STAFF OF THE LIBRARY.

The library staff consists of the librarian, assistant librarian, a stenographer and a janitor. The librarian has full charge of the library, and plans and directs the work of the assistants, attends to the correspondence and under the direction of the Board of Trustees of the library, purchases the books, manuscripts, furnishing and equipment, etc. of the library, and makes up all the bills for the expenses of the library. She meets all persons on business and in general has charge of the business of conducting the institution. She is also editor-in-chief of the *Journal of the Illinois State Historical Society*, which is published quarterly, collects material for it and with the help of the assistant librarian reads the proof on the publications of the Historical Society, has general direction of the card catalogue, and superintends the distribution of all publications of the library and the Historical Society. She also has charge of the preparation of indexes to the annual transactions of the Historical Society. She is the secretary and treasurer of the Historical Society and performs much labor for the society. Her reference work is very heavy, but no reference work is done as secretary of the Historical Society which would not have been as freely and carefully done as the librarian of the library, if she had not been working in both capacities. The librarian and the assistant librarian do in the evenings almost all of the work done on the *Journal of the Historical Society*.

THE ASSISTANT LIBRARIAN.

The assistant librarian has charge of the reading room: by that is meant she finds and places before our students material for their use and she returns the books to the shelves. She has made a special study of genealogical material and she advises with students as to the manner of using such works, she as far as possible catalogues the books which the library receives, she assists in proof reading and indexing, and in fact devote her whole time and best energy to the work of the library. She helps and assists the librarian in all of the work of the library.

THE STENOGRAPHER.

The stenographer performs the duties usually devolving upon such a position. She takes dictation for the correspondence of the library, copies reports, papers and records, copies extracts from newspapers and books for the work of the reference department, assists in the work of accessioning additions to the library, and does any other work which may be assigned her. Previous to July 1, 1909, the library had not on its regular pay-roll a stenographer, but for some time previous to that time a stenographer was employed and paid for out of the general appropriation for the library.

THE JANITOR.

The janitor takes care of the rooms of the library, attends to handling the newspaper files for readers, takes charge under the direction of the

librarian of the stock on hand of the publications of the library, prepares packages for shipment by express, or mail, and does the work usually performed by a janitor and messenger, as well as any other duties which may be from time to time assigned to him.

The librarian is authorized by the Library Board from time to time to employ such extra assistance as may be needed in the library.

CATALOGUE.

The catalogue used in the library is an analytical card catalogue. The books and pamphlets are being catalogued as soon as possible after they are purchased, and special efforts are being made to keep the *Lincolniana*, the histories of Illinois, county histories, the periodicals and genealogical material catalogued up to date and placed on the shelves. With the small working force of the library it is not possible each day to catalogue all of its accessions.

Five years ago the librarian and the assistant librarian prepared an outline for the study of State history with a reference list of the principal works in the library upon the subjects mentioned. Although ten thousand of these pamphlets were printed they have been exhausted and the demand for them is increasing. It is hoped that another such list may soon be prepared.

In the *Journal of the Historical Society* for January, 1910, a complete list of the books purchased in England in 1909 was published. This purchase of books is mentioned in another place as one of the important book purchases of the biennial period.

A new printed catalogue is much needed and you have directed the librarian to prepare it for publication. This I hope to be able to accomplish during the coming year.

These I believe, are the principal matters of interest in the business of the library for the period covered by this report.

I beg to thank you, gentlemen, for your kind consideration for me and for my fellow workers in the library.

Very respectfully,

(Signed) JESSIE PALMER WEBER,
Librarian Illinois State Historical Library.

EXPENDITURES ON ACCOUNT OF THE ILLINOIS STATE HISTORICAL LIBRARY.

July 1, 1908 to Sept. 30, 1910.

SALARIES.

Librarian, (\$1,200.00 per annum). The librarian also receives \$600.00 per annum as Secretary of the State Historical Society.....	\$2,700 00
Assistant librarian, (\$1,000.00 per annum to July 1, 1909; \$1,100.00 per annum since July 1, 1909).....	2,375 00
Stenographer (\$840.00 per annum since July 1, 1909; previous payments charged to extra assistance in the library).....	1,050 00
Janitor and messenger (\$900.00 per annum).....	2,025 00
Special editor of publications (\$1,200.00 per annum, to July 1, 1909; \$1,500.00 per annum since July 1, 1909).....	3,075 00
Stenographer to special editor, seven months.....	175 00
Total salaries.....	\$11,400 00

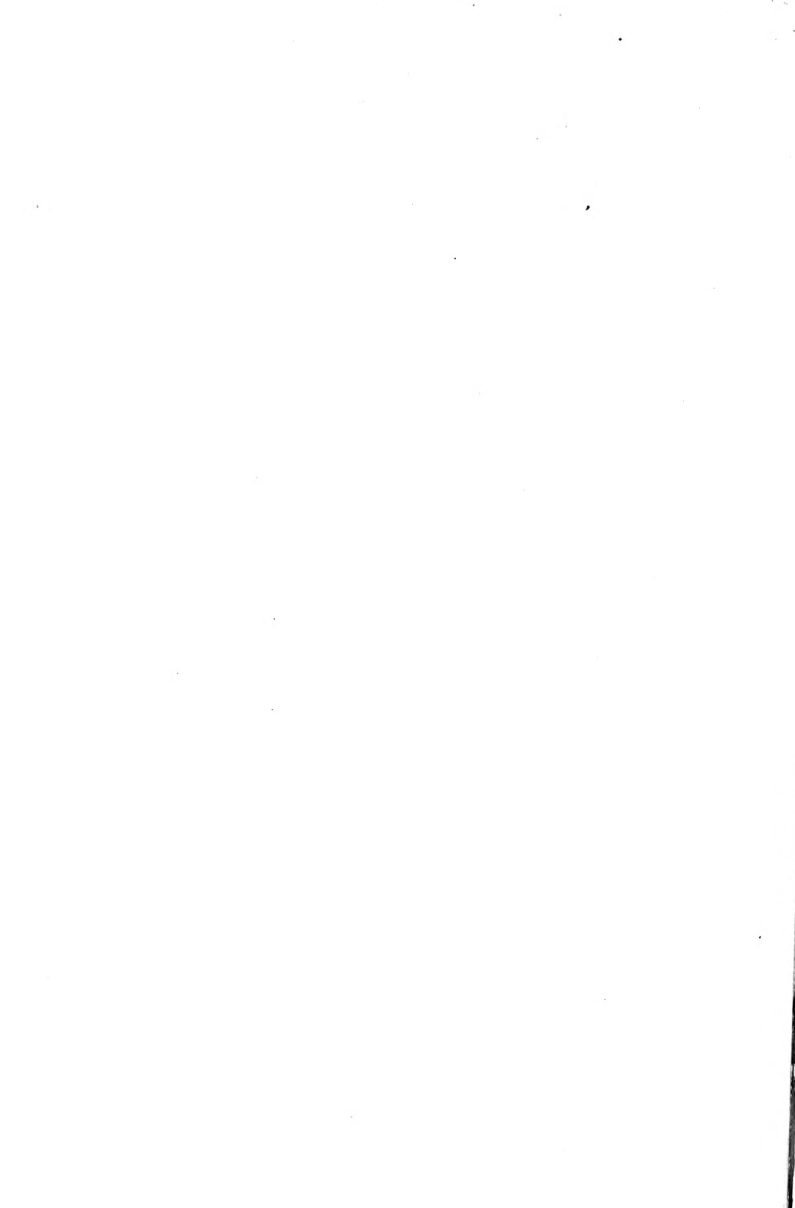
EXPENSES OF PUBLICATIONS.

Expenses of Advisory Commission.....	\$ 226 06
Other expenses for publications, including copying, printing, clerical service and expense accounts of persons engaged in publication service.....	14,121 14
Total publications.....	14,347 20
STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY.....	4,226 90

GENERAL LIBRARY EXPENSES.

Purchase of books, manuscripts, etc.....	\$7,793 05
Subscriptions to newspapers and periodicals.....	237 10
Binding.....	957 22
Incidental expenses (furniture, catalogue, telegrams, etc.).....	1,324 02
Postage, freight, hauling and expressage.....	3,967 33
Extra assistance in library.....	883 25
Expenses of Board of Trustees.....	98 46
Expenses of librarian in attending meetings of associations and other library business.....	469 42
Photography.....	125 85
Total general library expenses.....	15,855 79
Total expenses.....	\$45,829 89

* Salaries fixed by law.



UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS-URBANA

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BIENNIAL REPORT

1908/10



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